

# WASHINGTON.

"Liberty and Union, now and forever, one and inseparable."

MONDAY, MAY 3, 1852.

## CONGRESS AND ITS BUSINESS.

The progress of business at this Session has been more than usually dilatory, even in view of its being the quadrennial Session preceding a Presidential election, when all the points upon which that election turns are sure to enter more or less into the debates of every day, however little connection they have with the matter properly under debate. Since Congress assembled, five months have passed away, yet almost literally nothing has been done in the discharge of the legitimate duties of Congress. The description of the state of business in the House of Representatives, as contained in the following extract from an article in a late number of the *Courier and Enquirer*, is indeed hardly too highly colored:

"The clerk's table is piled knee-high with reported bills, upon which some kind of action is most urgently needed by the public interests; but no more notice is taken of this mass of business than if it were the sweepings of a stable. Even to this day the annual message and reports, which were sent to Congress last December, have not been treated with the cold respect of a reference to the appropriate committees. The tariff, rivers and harbors improvement, comprehensive land system, steam-line enterprises, establishment of new mints, formation of an agricultural bureau, and numerous other measures bearing importantly upon the commercial, manufacturing, and agricultural interests of the country, have been as effectually ignored as if none of them ever had an existence. No time is found even to close up the seams and smooth down the ridges of such pieces of last session's botchwork as the postage bill. Making and mending are now alike out of the question."

The questions which have nearly monopolized the attention of the House of Representatives, and almost exclusively that of the Senate, during this already long Session, have been, in the order of the consequence given to them, the Intervention project, the Printing for Congress, the contest for the Public Lands, and the Deficiency Bill.

The first of these, in the shape of Resolutions for and against the established foreign policy of this Government, it is mortifying to reflect, owes its origin to the preaching of a foreign Missionary, whose now avowed object in coming to the United States was to enlist the power of this Government, through the sympathies of the People, in an European crusade. The discussion which this question has elicited has, however, been one of great ability, and has thrown so much light upon a subject of very great consequence that we cannot reckon as lost the time that has been occupied upon it.

We cannot say the same of the weeks which have been devoted to the discussion of, not so much how, as by whom, the Printing of the two Houses shall be done. Animated by party spirit (as doubtless many members were) by a reforming zeal, gentlemen have, for the most part, debated this simple question for practical men upon grounds of fact and argument having little connexion with its merits. It is one of which the mechanical details could not be well understood but by persons who had served their time to it—of whom there are not many in Congress—and of course much of the time spent upon it has been thrown away.

Nor, so far as we can learn, has any thing conclusive been even now done in regard to the Printing. It is greatly to be desired, for the credit of Congress, that some permanent system could be established, since the subject has been so much debated; but no such system, it is clear, has any chance of being adopted until the next session of this Congress, when the event of the Presidential Election will have withdrawn that element from debate.

Of the Public Lands we have lately said so much that we shall add nothing here, except that, whilst we trust that moderate appropriations of them for important and eligible public works and institutions may be made by the present Congress, we incline to doubt whether the discussion of the projects for a general appropriation of them will lead to any decisive result at this Session. We have been taught by the old philosophers that all public business consists of two parts, preparation and action. It is not at all improbable, but very likely, that this principle will so far apply to the action of Congress, that important business will have been discussed by Congress at the present session in one frame of mind, which will not be acted upon until the next session, when Congress will re-assemble in a frame of mind much better adapted to the transaction of business.

With regard to the Deficiency bill, the passage of which has been obstructed by discussions of party topics that ought not to have been mixed up with it, it would be difficult to exaggerate the mischiefs occasioned by its delay; and, most of all, by the suffering entailed and disability caused by that delay upon all the Government agents, civil and military, on distant service. Of the increasing and lamentable consequences of omissions or neglect on the part of Congress to make due provision for the examination and settlement of claims upon the Government for services, expenditures, and losses, some of them under the most critical circumstances, the case of Col. FREMONT, lately arrested and imprisoned whilst on a visit to the capital of Great Britain, on the part of persons who have taken this way of enforcing the payment of claims against his Government, is an example which cannot fail to have deeply touched the feelings of every one who has watched the distinguished career of that yet young man, and marked the gallant traits and daring perseverance which have characterized it. Whilst we are glad to be able to commend the greater attention to Private Claims in general that has been manifested by the present Congress—private claims they are termed, but claims for the most part of the highest moral public obligation—we can assure our readers that they cannot do any thing more likely to promote the respectability of the Government by relieving it from just obprobrium, than to urge upon their Representatives the making of permanent provision for the adjustment of all claims upon the United States by some tribunal better fitted for that purpose than, in their nature, assemblies so numerous as the two Houses of Congress can reasonably be expected to be.

Of these four questions, therefore, upon which, principally, five months have been consumed in debate, much of it wholly inappropriate to their subjects, the first, unless as resulting from the exclusive authority of Congress to declare war, had no proper relation to its duties. Under the Constitution,

which is the rule of its authority, Congress has no proper power in regard to foreign relations, except to regulate commerce with foreign nations and define and punish offences against the laws of nations, and the power incidentally involved in the legislation necessary to carry into effect treaties with foreign nations. With these exceptions, the conduct of the intercourse of the United States with foreign nations is placed in the hands of the President—the Senate having co-ordinate power in the appointment of Ministers and Consuls, and in the ratification of Treaties. Otherwise than as above excepted, Congress has no jurisdiction in matters of foreign intercourse; and the whole of the debate in the House of Representatives on the questions connected with M. KOSSTER and his demands has been supererogatory, though not so in the Senate. A safe check on the action of the President in regard to making Treaties, appointing Foreign Ministers, &c. has been wisely established by the Constitution in the concurrent power given to the Senate in the exercise of these high functions. A participation by the House of Representatives in that authority was designedly withheld from the popular branch of Congress, because, in the language of the framers of the Constitution, accurate and comprehensive knowledge of foreign politics; a steady and systematic adherence to the same views; a nice and uniform sensibility to national character; decision, secrecy, and dispatch, are incompatible with the genius of a body so variable and so numerous.

Of the remaining three questions, the one which has occupied the most time (that of the Printing) has never, at any Congress preceding the last, occupied more than a day or so, and for a period of more than twenty years from 1819 to 1841 not even a single day in either House. That question ought, we repeat, to be definitively put to rest, so as to exclude it from debate for fifty years to come, were it only to prevent the recurrence of the spectacle now presented by the House of Representatives of having been in session almost half a year, and not having yet before it, in readable form, any of the official papers transmitted to it at the opening of the session, and not yet having made the first step, in order, in the proper business of the session. For it is literally true, as stated by the *Courier and Enquirer*, that for the reference of the several topics of the President's Message, ordinarily a day's business only in the first or second week of each session, the House of Representatives has not yet been able to find a moment's time. The Rules of Order for the government of the last House, adopted by the present, are so curiously contrived as to prevent the origination of business by any individual, and to defeat the consideration of any by a mere majority of the House. Motions to the House can be made only in the order in which the States are called upon for them; and that call is made only once a fortnight according to the Rule, and practically has not been gone through, so far, more than once during the whole session. At any other time than during the call of the States it is not in order to make a motion without a suspension of all the Rules and Orders, which suspension requires a two-thirds vote, and there is only one day in the week on which it is in order to make such a motion, (as to suspend the Rules.) There are indeed occasions on which, on the plea of privilege, a motion may be allowed, or a speech edged in. But, in general, the Rules intend to regulate business could not have been more cunningly devised had their object been to make it difficult, and even impossible, to get at it. For a conscientious man, desirous of discharging his duties in a manner to be of some use to his constituents, a seat in the House of Representatives is, under such circumstances, but an odious thralldom. The reader may, perhaps, with a little further elucidation, understand why it is that the House, having been in session so long, has not yet taken the first step in the proper business of the Session. A majority refuses to go into Committee of the Whole on the President's Message, because they do not favor him, and of course not his Message. A majority then agrees to go into Committee of the Whole on some bill introduced, on leave perhaps, by a lucky member—a bill, for instance, making a gratuitous disposition of the Public Lands—which bill they are in favor of, and forthwith members fall to debating the relative merits of the numerous candidates for the Presidency; and so on, for weeks together.

The "Deficiency Bill"—that is, the bill appropriating such necessary money to carry on the Government as the last Congress had refused or omitted to appropriate—which was really entitled to the earliest attention of the House after its organization, is the only one that has, with any semblance of propriety in the order of proceeding, occupied any large portion of the attention of the House; and even upon that question the debate was unnecessarily prolonged and distracted by speeches on the Presidential topic, having no relation to the subject of the bill.

It would take a much longer time and space than we can devote to it, to describe more minutely the circumstances which have brought about the actual state of things in Congress, so far as the popular branch of the Legislature is concerned. For our present purpose it is sufficient to state, as a fact not controvertible, what our readers ought to understand, that the Annual Message of the President to Congress, accompanied by the Reports on the state of the several Departments, transmitted to Congress on the second day of the session, lies untouched and unregarded on the table of the House.

Let us now turn to the source and character of the President's Annual Message to Congress, which the House has not found itself able to treat with even official courtesy.

By the Constitution, the PRESIDENT is commanded "from time to time to give to CONGRESS information of the state of the Union, and recommend to their consideration such measures as he shall judge necessary or expedient." This information the President gave, according to usage, in a manner very generally approved by the People, in the Message referred to; and, faithful to his sworn duty, recommended to the consideration of Congress such measures as he deemed necessary and proper. From that moment, the burden of responsibility for every recommendation contained in that Message devolved upon Congress. The theory of the Constitution is, that Congress is as much bound to pass upon such recommendations as the President is to make them, and should therefore give to them early and earnest consideration. Such, also, our readers will probably agree with us, is the dictate of common sense.

The reader has seen what degree of attention the House of Representatives has paid to the President's recommendations.

Let us now see what were those recommendations, and whether they comprised any thing to

justify the neglectful and contemptuous treatment shown to them by the House of Representatives in devoting weeks and weeks to the discussion of such a question as the deliberate annihilation of the National domain; and whether that act of abnegation and self-destitution, paralleled only in fiction—as in the case of poor old dotting Lear, who stripped himself of rule, revenue, interest of territory, and cares of State, by dividing his estate among a greedy and ingrate progeny—was a matter of such imperious and imperative obligation that all other interests of the Government and People sink into nothingness in comparison with it.

The objects of recommendation by the President, to Congress, in the order in which they stand in the Message, are substantially as follows:

1. To consider whether further legislation be necessary to prevent the perpetration in future of such violations of the laws of the United States and of the law of nations as the late criminal enterprises against Cuba.
2. To consider the propriety of amending our laws concerning Foreign Ambassadors, Ministers, and Consuls, and to provide sufficiently for both the protection and the punishment of Consuls.
3. The expediency of regulating by reciprocal legislation the trade between the United States and Canada, and other British possessions near our frontier.
4. Inviting the attention of Congress to the expediency of marking out authoritatively, and appropriating for, a part of the boundary line between Oregon and the British possessions.
5. Renewing a former recommendation of modification of the existing Tariff, and of the adoption of specific instead of ad valorem duties in all cases where the nature of the commodities does not forbid it.
6. Recommending further legislation and additional appropriations, for extending the general land system of the United States over the remote parts of our territory in California and Oregon.
7. Renewing the recommendation formerly made of the establishment of an Agricultural Bureau, as originally recommended by President Washington.
8. Showing the necessity of various amendments of the laws concerning pensions and bounty lands, for the purpose of more effectually guarding against abuses and frauds on the Government.
9. Again urging upon Congress the making of appropriations for the improvement of the harbors of our Great Lakes and Seacoasts and the navigation of our principal Rivers; from the dangers now experienced in the navigation of which, the President says, the whole Northwest appeals to Congress for relief, and whose appeal he trusts will receive due consideration at their hands.
10. Recommending an increase of the Army, as indispensable to the protection of the Southern and Western frontier, the military force now stationed on the Mexican border being considered entirely inadequate to its defence.
11. Earnestly recommending to the attention of Congress the necessity of reorganizing the Naval establishment, with a view to the number of officers in each grade, the mode of promotion in the higher grades of the navy, &c.
12. Expressing the confident hope that Congress will thoroughly investigate the important subject of the discipline of the Navy, and establish such modes of determining guilt and punishment in that service as are consistent with humanity, and at the same time shall ensure the most energetic and efficient performance of duty and the suppression of crime on board our ships of war.
13. Endorsing the recommendation by the Postmaster General of adherence to the present letter-rates of postage, and advising against the further reduction until justified by the revenue of the Department.
14. Recommending that provision be made by law for the appointment of a commission to revise the public statutes of the United States, and report such revision to Congress for its action.
15. Repeating the former recommendation for the appointment of a commission to settle private claims against the United States; justice to individuals as well as the Government imperatively demanding that some more convenient and expeditious mode than an appeal to Congress should be adopted.
16. Renewing his recommendation of adhering to the adjustment established by the Compromise measures until time and experience should demonstrate the necessity of further legislation to guard against evasion or abuse.

Running his eye over this hasty recapitulation of the recommendations in the President's Message—to which might be added, did time allow, the recommendations contained in the Reports of the Heads of the Departments of War, of the Navy, and of the Interior, approved by the Executive—every reader will judge whether they are so entirely unworthy of the attention of Members of Congress as to be treated as mere rubbish beside the different projects for wresting from the control of the Government that Great National Domain, and that unequalled Land System of ours, which are the admiration and envy of all nations.

In the Senate, from the superior organization of that body, and from length of service, greater experience of its Members, more strict attention has been given to the general duties of legislation, and to the requirements of the Constitution, than in the other House, and it has thus happened that a few bills, originating in that body, for objects which the House had not approached, have reached the House and been there brought under discussion.

In speaking of the backwardness of business in the House of Representatives, our object has been chiefly to suggest to our readers the ill effect, and therefore the inexpediency, of suffering the Presidential question to intrude into the debates in Congress, converting the speeches and votes, in the House of Representatives at least, into a sort of scramble for popularity between the friends of the several candidates for the favor of the People.

If the effect of these prolonged discussions upon questions, which may be considered in the light of feigned issues, to determine the strength of titles or claims, is more plainly discernible at this Session than we remember it to have ever been heretofore, we do not hence infer any absence of good intention on the part of the younger members who have chiefly occupied the floor of the House of Representatives in these discussions, and still less a defect of intelligence or ability; on the contrary, "Young America" has supplied to the present Congress, from both parties, a great amount and diversity of talent; and, in connexion with it, an improvement is discernible in the temper of the House. We have seen evidences, too, of liberality as well as intelligence in both Houses, amongst which we need but particularize the passage of the act appropriating half a million of dollars to continue the work on the enlargement of the Capitol, and the liberal appropriations for the re-establishment of the Library of Congress, so considerable a portion of which

was destroyed by fire early in the present Session. This very liberality may, we doubt not, be attributed to the same cause as some of the new ideas which have germinated in the Thirty-second Congress; that is, to the enlargement of the National boundaries, bringing into Congress Members from regions more remote from the seat of Government; to the increased population of the Western and Northwestern States—a population in distinct with new sensations and aspirations, which manifest themselves, not yet exactly in the "destiny" of our country, but certainly in a more rapid "progress" than would a few years ago have been deemed wise, or in any way commendable.

## THE VOICE OF MARYLAND.

FROM THE BALTIMORE PATRIOT OF SATURDAY.

We have received from Annapolis the subjoined official report of the proceedings of the Whig members of the Legislature of MARYLAND at a meeting recently held by them in Annapolis, upon the subject of the next Presidency. The preference here declared for Mr. FILLMORE, as the Whig candidate for President, is that of the Whigs of MARYLAND, and the assurance given that he will, if nominated by the National Convention, receive their cordial support, was alike due to him for the manner in which he has discharged the duties of the Presidential office, in most trying times, as to the desire which the Whigs of Maryland feel to give an emphatic expression of their approval of all he has done, by casting their votes for his re-election.

What is also said in these resolutions of the Compromise measures and of the doctrines of WASHINGTON find a hearty response in the hearts of the Whigs of Maryland.

At a meeting of the Whig members of the Legislature, held in the Senate chamber, the following proceedings were had:

On motion, Hon. WM. LINGAN GAITHER was called to the chair, and THOS. J. MARSHALL, Esq., appointed secretary.

The following resolutions, reported by Mr. FARLANDIS from a committee appointed at a former meeting, were then adopted:

Resolved by the Whig members of the General Assembly of Maryland, That we cordially approve of the following resolutions, adopted by the Whigs of Virginia, and adopt them as also, in our opinion, expressing the sentiments of the Whigs of Maryland, to wit:

1. That we regard the acts of Congress commonly known as the Compromise as a final settlement and adjustment of the questions involved in them; and we will consider any attempt to disturb them as a blow aimed at the peace of the country and the integrity of the Union.
2. That we approve the administration of President FILLMORE, believing that by his wisdom, evinced in the conduct of our national affairs, amidst embarrassing difficulties, his loyalty to the Constitution, his firmness in the maintenance of the laws, and his just regard for the rights of the States, he has eminently fulfilled our expectations and justly entitled himself to our continued confidence and support.
3. That we prefer MILLARD FILLMORE as a candidate for the Presidency over all other persons who have been proposed for that high station; and if he shall be nominated by the Whig National Convention, the Whigs of Maryland will give him their cordial support.
4. That the Whigs of Maryland will give the like support to any other true Whig who may become the nominee of that Convention, who has stood by and does stand by the compromise, and regards it and stands by it, with unalterable determination, as a final settlement and adjustment of the measures involved in it.
5. That the wise maxims of Washington respecting the foreign policy of this country, which have been practically illustrated in the administration of President FILLMORE, ought ever to guide the Federal Government in its intercourse with foreign nations.

WM. LINGAN GAITHER, Chairman.  
THOS. J. MARSHALL, Secretary.

## COINAGE OF THE MINT FOR APRIL.

E. C. DALE, Treasurer of the Mint at Philadelphia, publishes the following statement of the amount of coinage for April:	
Gold—124,677 Double Eagles	\$2,493,540 00
18,700 Eagles	187,000 00
74,582 Half Eagles	372,910 00
117,502 Quarter Eagles	293,755 00
120,278 Gold Dollars	120,278 00
462,044 Pieces	\$3,474,128 00
SILVER—98,000 Dimes	\$9,800 00
246,000 Half Dimes	12,300 00
1,000,200 3-Cent Pieces	30,006 00
1,806,444 Pieces	\$3,526,294 00
COPPER—1,170,882 Cents	\$11,708 82
2,976,826 Pieces	\$3,537,993 82
GOLD DEPOSITS FOR APRIL.	
From California	\$2,980,000 00
From other sources	110,000 00
	\$3,090,000 00
Silver deposits for April	25,700 00

The Mississippi Legislature has adjourned without passing a bill to district the State for Congress under the new apportionment, by which it gains a member.

Col. E. D. BAKER, colonel of one of the Illinois regiments in the Mexican war, and since a prominent talker in Congress, has emigrated to California.

JOHN REYNOLDS, ex-Governor and ex-Member of Congress, of Illinois, is engaged in writing a history of that State, from Marquette's discoveries in 1763 to the year 1818.

BENJAMIN G. SHIELDS, formerly Member of Congress from Alabama, and Minister to Venezuela, has removed to Martin, Falls county, Texas.

Both Houses of the Legislature of MARYLAND have adopted a resolution to close their present session on the 15th of the present month.

CHESAPEAKE AND OHIO CANAL.—The Frederick Examiner says that notwithstanding the interruption of transportation by the damages received during the late freshet, the operations of the company will not be materially interfered with by the credit, scrip, and bonds sensibly depreciated.

The Democrats of Michigan held their State Convention at Detroit on the 28th ultimo. Thirty-two counties were represented by about one hundred and forty delegates. CHARLES P. BUSH presided. The roll having been called, in pursuance of a resolution, so as to afford each member an opportunity to rise and express his preference of a candidate for the Presidency, every one of them announced in favor of Gen. CASS.

Thirty Delegates were appointed to attend the Democratic National Convention, being four from each Congressional District, and ROBERT McCLELLAND and ALFRED WILLIAMS from the State at large.

Following the example set them by their brother Democrats in the Southern States, the Democracy of Michigan have not ventured to name the Compromise measures in the resolutions adopted by their Convention. On that great question they are silent.

The cars on the Missouri and Pacific Railroad commenced running on Monday from Alexandria to the Plains, in Panhandle country. The stages from Winchester will unite there. A number of the citizens of Alexandria paid a visit to the Plains, and had a pleasant and agreeable trip—going and returning in a few hours. We shall soon see a profitable trade by the railroad opened to all that neighborhood. [Alexandria Gazette.]

## STATE CONVENTION OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

This Convention did no business on Wednesday, the third day of its meeting, in consequence of the Committee of Twenty-One not being then ready to report. On Thursday, however, a report was presented from the committee by the Hon. LANGDON CHEVREUX, its chairman, as follows:

The Committee of Twenty-One, to whom was referred an act to provide for the election of deputies to a Southern Congress and the call of a Convention, with instructions to consider and report thereon, respectfully report—

That they have considered the subject referred to them, and have concluded to recommend to the Convention, the adoption of the accompanying resolution and ordinance:

Resolved by the people of South Carolina in Convention assembled, That the frequent violations of the constitution of the United States by the Federal Government, and its encroachments upon the reserved rights of the sovereign States of this Union, especially in relation to slavery, justify this State, so far as the any duty or obligation to her confederates is involved, in dissolving at once all political connexion with her co-States, and that she forbears the exercise of that manifest right of self-government from considerations of expediency only.

An Ordinance to declare the right of this State to secede from the Federal Union.

We, the people of the State of South Carolina, in Convention assembled, do declare and ordain, and it is hereby declared and ordained: That South Carolina, in the exercise of her sovereign power, as an independent State, acceded to the Federal Union, known as the United States of America, and that, in the exercise of the same sovereign will, it is her right, without aid, hindrance, or molestation from any power whatsoever, to secede from the said Federal Union; and that for the sufficiency of the causes which may impel her to such separation she is responsible alone, under God, to the tribunal of public opinion among the nations of the earth.

The report was ordered to be printed, and made the special order for the next day.

Dr. JOHN BELLINGER offered the following amendment to the report, which was also ordered for consideration the next day.

"Be it ordained by this Convention, That the Legislature of the State shall have the power, by a vote of two-thirds, (accompanied with a notification to the other States), to withdraw the State of South Carolina from the Federal Union."

Mr. B. F. PERRY, from the same committee, made a report on his own behalf, which states that the other Southern States identified with South Carolina having declined to meet that State in a Southern Congress, it would be unwise and inexpedient for South Carolina to take any decisive separate action under existing circumstances. One of the resolutions presented by Mr. P. pledges South Carolina to resist with the other Southern States, on certain contingencies. The report was ordered to be printed and made the order for next day.

Mr. GRACE, from the same committee, also submitted a report on his own behalf, stating his reasons for not concurring in the report of the committee, which, on his motion, was laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

Mr. DANIELER announced that he had prepared, as an individual member of the co-operation party, an ordinance of conditional secession, but was restrained from offering it lest it might distract the deliberations of the Convention.

No other business was done by the Convention on Thursday.

On Friday the Report of the Committee of Twenty-one was adopted—yeas 136, nays 19.

South Carolina having thus determined to remain in the Union, we suppose we shall hear no more about secession at present, more especially as the leading organ of the Secession party, (the Charleston Mercury,) in commenting upon the above proceedings, says that "this act of the Convention is now the supreme law for us and for all, and we bow before its authority."

We are happy to be able to congratulate the State of SOUTH CAROLINA upon the auspicious termination of this Convention, putting a final term to all agitation in the South against the General Government for any cause that now exists.

The Democratic State Convention of Florida was held at Madison Court-house on the 19th ultimo, the Hon. D. BIRD presiding. GEORGE E. BROOME was nominated as the candidate for the office of Governor of the State, and AUGUSTUS E. MAXWELL for Representative in Congress. Presidential Electors were also nominated, and fourteen Delegates appointed to the Democratic National Convention. No preference was expressed for any candidate for the Presidency or Vice-President. The resolutions adopted by the Convention do not name the Compromise, though one of them would seem to yield a cold acquiescence in that measure. They are as follows:

1. That the true relations between the States and the Federal Government, and the true rules for the construction of the Constitution, are correctly set forth in the resolutions of Virginia and Kentucky of 1789 and 1799, and in Mr. Madison's Report, and the doctrines therein expounded are hereby adopted and re-affirmed.
2. That we approve and endorse the political principles embodied in the resolutions of the two last Democratic National Conventions, held in 1844 and 1848, so far as applicable to the present condition of the country, and we believe their strict observance not only to be conducive to the prosperity of the people, but essential to the preservation of the Union.
3. That we deprecate the agitation of all questions growing out of the domestic institutions of the country, or the revival of issues already past, with a view to such agitation, as mischievous and unwise, and as calculated to introduce divisions among the people and weaken the bonds of our political fraternity.

In commenting upon this platform, the Tallahassee Sentinel says: "The resolutions mean whatever interpretation may be put upon them, and do credit to the political tact of the gentlemen who drew them. The first resolution, for instance, will to some declare for the doctrine of secession; but those who do not acknowledge the doctrine will content themselves with Mr. Madison's exposition of 1830. The second still more comprehensive. Every Willmot voted for the Baltimore resolutions of 1848. The third is an act of general amnesty and oblivion, and a cordial proffer of the hand to every shade of opinion on sectional matters. It is true, too, for nothing could be better calculated to weaken the bonds of political fraternity between such men as \_\_\_\_\_, and the Florida Democratic Republican Convention, than a declaration for the finality of the Compromise."

We are informed that resolutions in favor of the finality of the Compromise were introduced into the Convention, but promptly and decidedly voted down.

THE EUROPEAN AND NORTH AMERICAN RAILROAD.—It is stated that Mr. HINCKS, the agent who lately visited England on behalf of the Canadian Government, for the purpose of obtaining the co-operation of Great Britain in aid of the proposed European and North American Railroad, has been eminently successful in his mission. The Home Government displays a laudable desire to assist the undertaking, and Mr. HINCKS has received the assurance of Lord DERBY that the Ministry will bring the matter before Parliament on the earliest opportunity. The States of Maine and Massachusetts have already taken the preliminary steps to secure the construction of that section of the road between Bangor and the New Brunswick line.

[Buffalo Commercial Advertiser.]

## FROM SANTA FE.

We have the Santa Fe Gazette to the 27th March, but it contains no news. The expedition to the Gila in search of gold, has not been successful. A part of them have gone to California, a part went to the Copper mine, and the rest have returned to Santa Fe. They found gold, wherever they prospected, at about ten feet below the surface, but in quantities too small to justify a stay in the country. They describe the land in the San Francisco as superior to what is usually found in New Mexico.

A resolution in favor of the Maine law has been voted down in the House of Representatives of Indiana by a large majority—yeas 8, nays 79.

## THE CALIFORNIA LAND COMMISSION.

It is known to our readers that the highly important Land Commission for deciding upon the validity of claims to Lands within our lately acquired Territory, and now State, of California, has been in session for several months in San Francisco. The following article upon the subject, which we find in the *Herald*, published in that city, of the date of the 5th instant, throws out suggestions which appear to be worthy of all the attention of the land claimants in that quarter:

"THE LAND COMMISSION.—Some one hundred and fifty-three petitions have been presented and placed on file, and numerous depositions relative to the same have also been taken. As yet, however, no claim has been finally adjudicated upon, and, as far as we know, but two orders for initiatory surveys have been made. If there be any dilatoriness in the proceedings of the Board, such cannot fairly be laid to the charge of the Commissioners; for, announcing that they were always in readiness to take up any business presented for their action, they have been constantly at their posts and ready to examine the claims that might be laid before them. The tardy prosecution of such must then be attributed to the claimants themselves; and in view of the extreme inconvenience and prejudice of interest to the whole community, which must prevail while titles in real estate continue unsettled, it is truly astonishing that more energy is not shown. We had supposed that the native Californians, pressed as they are by the squatter interest, would have instantly and with the utmost zeal laid their claims before the high court which the Federal Government has appointed to pronounce upon them. They seem to hold back, however, and meanwhile their territory is invaded by the bold and active strangers who possibly will not be very easily dislodged. It seems to us to be the policy of the natives to present their claims as soon as possible, and if their validity be recognized, then to dispose of a portion of their territory to the new comers on good terms as they can, and thereby establish on the part of the purchasers a disposition to defend their common title. The enormous tracts of country which are embraced by the Mexican grants are too unwieldy under any circumstances, and inasmuch as many of them lie in the vicinity of the towns and contain much of the best land, it is evident that an early subdivision is desirable, if not inevitable. In the cities themselves the uncertain tenure by which real estate is held is a subject of general complaint, and as all admit is a heavy clog even to California enterprise. If the squatter spirit be objectionable, surely no time ought to be lost in putting land in the reach of those who are willing to give a fair equivalent for it."

## AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

The seventh annual meeting of this association was commenced at Richmond on Tuesday last, when there were present between two or three hundred Delegates, representing twenty-five States and the District of Columbia.

Dr. MOULTRE, of South Carolina, after having opened the meeting, delivered the annual address, which is represented to have been a very able one. In the course of it he suggested some reforms, and among them the fixing of the annual meetings, or a due arrangement of them in accordance with some distinct object—migratory meetings for the purpose of encouraging sociality among different members of the profession from different sections, and the development of the scientific characteristics of the different sections, and stationary or fixed meetings at Washington, where a medical bureau or head could be organized, from whence could irradiate the aggregated enlightened medical views of the entire faculty of the Union. He earnestly advocated the harmonization of medical views, and their generalization as far as practicable through an aggregated central body. This was necessary, he contended, to give the profession throughout the Union that influence which it should exercise upon public opinion.

The report on prize essays shows that fourteen essays were submitted to the committee on that subject. The annual prize of \$500 was awarded to Dr. ARVIN FENT, of Buffalo, New York.

Dr. BEVERLY B. WELFORD, of Fredericksburg, (Va.) was elected President for the ensuing year. JOSEPH KNIGHT, of Connecticut, JAS. W. THOMPSON, of Delaware, THOS. Y. SIMMONS, of South Carolina, and CHAS. A. POPE, of Missouri, were chosen Vice Presidents; JOHN S. MOORE, of St. Louis, and P. C. GOUGH, of Richmond, Secretaries; and DAVID FRANCIS CONDEE, of Pennsylvania, Treasurer.

It was resolved to hold the annual session of 1853 at St. Louis, Missouri.

G. W. SLACUM, Esq., of Alexandria, who has lately been employed as agent of the Government in Mexico, investigating the subject of certain claims, returned home on Monday last.

The Legislature of PENNSYLVANIA adjourned sine die on Tuesday, after a session of four months. The Philadelphia Ledger says that the session was remarkable for nothing except the number of bank bills passed, and the number of votes by the Governor. The usual bills making appropriations for the expenses of Government were passed, and so was the bill apportioning the Congressional districts.

In laying off the new Congressional districts in Ohio, it is said that the Democrats, who have a majority in the Legislature, have terribly "gerrymandered" the State. As an evidence of this, it is said that the State, as just districted, would have chosen a large majority of Democrats to Congress at the same time that it gave its electoral vote to Henry Clay by 6,000 majority, and would have chosen fourteen Democrats in 1848 to seven Whigs and Free-soilers by the same vote that elected Mr. Ford Governor!

TRIAL OF A CURAN EXPEDITIONIST.—The jury in the case of the United States vs. Maj. ROBINSON, tried in the Circuit Court at Columbus, (Ohio), were unable to agree upon a verdict, and were discharged. The case stands continued till the next term. In stating these facts the Columbus Journal says:

"There is an inherent difficulty in all this class of cases. Of course nobody doubts that Maj. ROBINSON and other enlisted men for the Cuban expedition, and we presume he does not pretend to deny it in private conversation with his friends. That he has violated our neutrality laws is, therefore, well understood by the public. The witnesses who were called before the Grand Jury were cognizant of this fact, and, we believe, were satisfied to what they knew about it. But, after the bill was found, the defendant arraigned, and the same witnesses were called to testify before the court, attorneys, and the people, as well as the jury, they threw themselves on their reserved rights, and refused to testify because they said they could not do so without criminating themselves! Thus it was in the history of this case. The witnesses that knew all the facts refused to testify, and the United States Attorney was compelled to get along the best way he could."

## Steamboat Collision and Loss of Life.

EVANSVILLE, APRIL 27.—About 10 P. M. last night the steamers Chickasaw and Clifton came in collision at French Island. The bow of the Clifton struck the Chickasaw a little forward of the wheel-house, and the latter boat commenced sinking. In a few minutes the cabin parted from the hull and floated off, and she having on board a locomotive and a large quantity of heavy gas pipes, caused her to sink immediately. Many of the passengers and officers jumped on board the Clifton, and others were saved on the cabin; but of those below it is thought fifty or twenty are lost, as they had no time to get up on the upper deck, so rapidly did the boat go down. Few would have been lost, however, if the Clifton could have remained alongside; but she was in a sinking condition, and had to be run ashore, where she was only saved from sinking by discharging a large portion of her cargo.